

College newspaper readership program pilot hits campus

TAYLOR MULLER
Asst. Section Editor

Beginning yesterday, a national newspaper program will bring the world to UNO's doorstep.

Student government, in partnership with *USA Today*, has brought a pilot run of the Collegiate Readership Program to each student, faculty and staff member of UNO.

The program provides four weeks of the *New York Times*, *Omaha World-Herald* and *USA Today* free of charge. The pilot runs Jan. 8 through Feb. 2, with the papers available at seven locations around campus Monday through Friday.

The program's goal is to "engage college students in active learning inside and outside the classroom by increasing knowledge of local, national and international events," according to a press release from student government.

James Hulstein, outgoing student government vice president, said the pilot is a way to gauge student interest. If the students want it, the Student Activities Budget Commission would consider allocating funds for the full program.

"We'll do surveys on the first day and the last day to see if there is a real need or interest," said Hulstein. "I will present that to SABC and they'll basically decide if this

is a program we'll have on campus."

The newspaper stands are located in the Milo Bail Student Center, Roskens Hall, Arts and Sciences Hall, Criss Library, Durham Science Center, Peter Kiewit Institute and the Health, Physical Education and Recreation building.

Bob Duffy, the senior account manager for *USA Today* and the Readership Program, said, in an interview, "the impact [of the program] is varied. It's really based upon how available the papers are to students."

Duffy believes the proposed seven locations will be enough for the campus.

"I think it's great. College students are tomorrow's leaders; it's very important that they are keeping up with current events," said Duffy. "Having a readership on campus makes them available."

Elementary education major Alicia Hoesing said while she does not read the paper that often, she would be in favor of the program if "it was useful to others," but did not believe many students would use it.

Hulstein said if the response to the pilot is favorable, an increase in student fees would cover the program's operating costs.

"There's no way to know the price right now," Hulstein said. "It could be \$2,

See **NEWSPAPERS:** Page 2

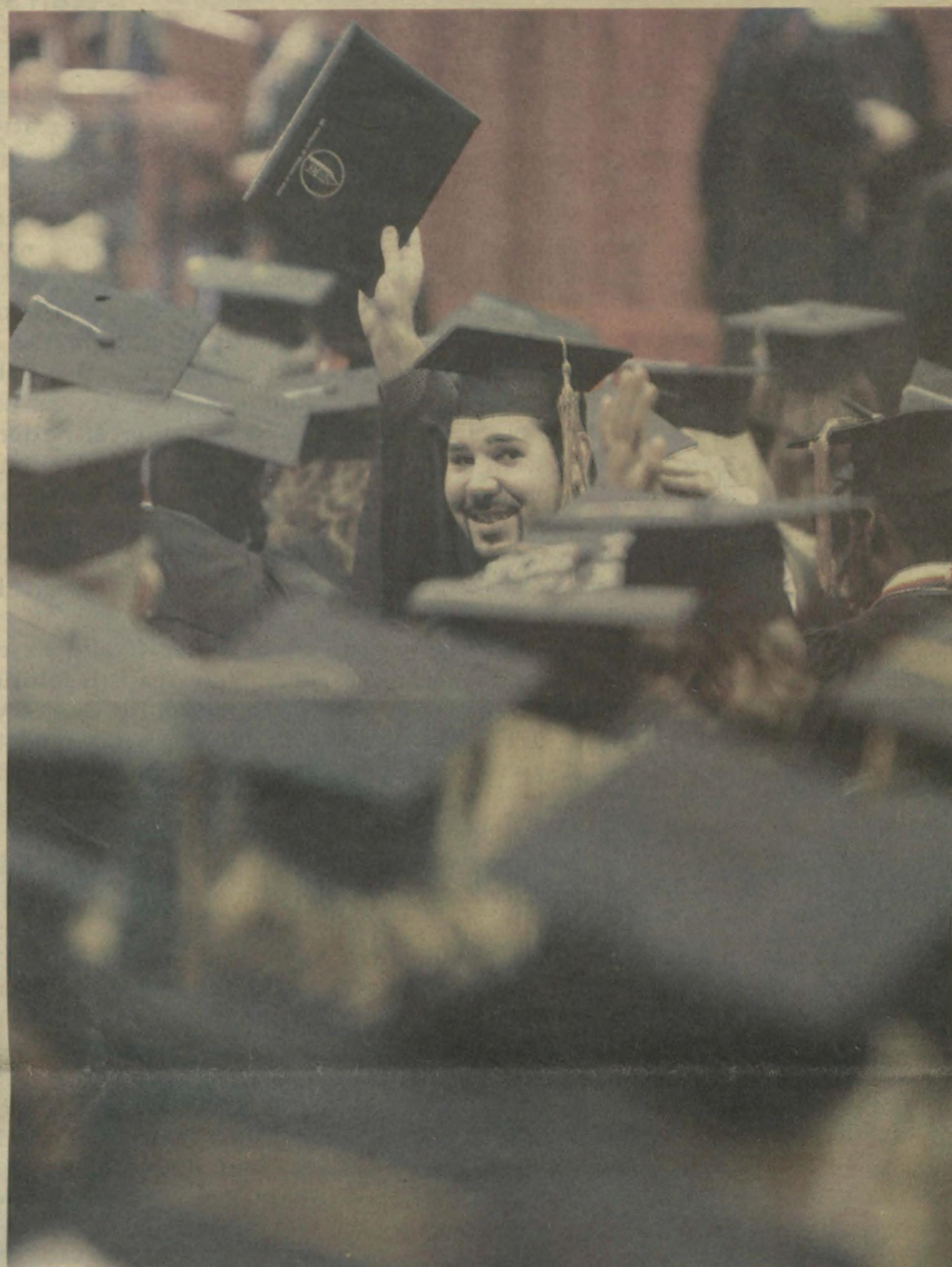


photo by Patrick Doty

Emotions were flowing through the Civic Auditorium during the winter commencement while graduates waved to family members.

MavCard becomes ticket to the town

TAYLOR MULLER
Asst. Section Editor

Scrounging the couch for both food and beer money at the same time can be pretty rough.

But thanks to efforts by student government, UNO students, faculty and staff will be able to pinch their dollar further in the Omaha area.

The Student Savings Club is a program where local businesses offer discounts and deals to anyone who shows their UNO identification card.

James Hulstein, outgoing student government vice president, said the program took awhile to get off the ground, but will only go more smoothly in the future.

"I've been working on it for over a year; it's finally up and running," said Hulstein. "Companies are still being added and we're going to be advertising around campus and putting things online."

Most of the deals offered are for local restaurants and businesses that hope to increase their customer base while helping out the hungry students. Student government believes it's a chance to help the students they represent.

"We believe it's another way to help serve the students. I mean, we're all poor college students, so why not help a fellow student out?" said Cassy Loseke, speaker of the Student Senate.

Few students are aware of the penny-pinching opportunities within their own MavCard, something Hulstein said he was working to reverse.

"I've used it already and I'm pretty confident that if the students find out, they'll really like it," said Hulstein.

He added that next semester there would be an effort to reach more students about the savings club.

"We'll have a campaign with posters

See **SAVINGS:** Page 3

Commencement honors more than 900 graduates this winter

PATRICK DOTY
Asst. Photo/Line Editor

Nervousness, excitement and relief were just a few of the emotions flowing through the Civic Auditorium on Dec. 15 during the UNO winter commencement ceremony.

Ryan McCann, who was among more than 900 students receiving degrees this winter, felt all of these emotions during the two-hour ceremony.

"I was probably the most nervous the whole time we were waiting to be seated at the Civic," McCann said. "Once I walked up and saw my family I felt a lot better. After walking I was just relieved it was all over."

Not all students who received degrees last semester walked during the ceremony. Other students who

did walk may not receive a degree until certain conditions are met, like fulfilling a speech requirement or repeating a failed class.

Steve Massara, former student government president/regent, gave the student commencement address at the ceremony. Massara received a bachelor's degree in education with an emphasis in exercise science at the ceremony. Also speaking was NU President James B. Milliken.

Recognized at the commencement ceremony was Magdalena Garcia, who received the UNO Alumni Association's Citation for Alumnus Achievement. She received a bachelor's degree in art history from UNO in 1988 and went on to receive her master's at Syracuse University.

See **COMMENCEMENT:** Page 12

From SAVINGS: Page 1

and some other things; not enough of the companies were online last semester to really start telling people."

The list of businesses involved

can be found on the Student Savings Club Web site, studentsavingsclub.com. The list for UNO includes 19 separate businesses, many with more than one

discount offer.

Hulstein hopes the list will continue to grow from year to year, which depends on student involvement and input.

"If the students like it and use it, and if there's a company they'd like to see, they can put it down, and we'll work on putting it on there," said Hulstein.

Former *Gateway* staffer passes away after battling brain damage



SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

A former UNO student passed away over break after a long battle with brain damage.

Rachel Jayne Wade, 23, died in her home in Colorado Springs on Sunday, Dec. 17. She attended UNO during the fall semester of 2001, when she played volleyball and was a staff writer for the *Gateway*.

Wade was struck by lightning on July 25, 2003, at the Glenelake Golf Club pool in Colorado Springs, where she was working as a lifeguard, according to the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. She and two other lifeguards were struck while driving a golf cart to the clubhouse. The bolt threw the other two passengers out of the cart but stopped Wade's heart.

A passing sheriff's deputy saw the golf cart and managed to revive

Wade by CPR. Wade was not expected to survive the night.

However, she held on for three years and was transferred to the care of her parents in January 2004, where she spent her remaining two years.

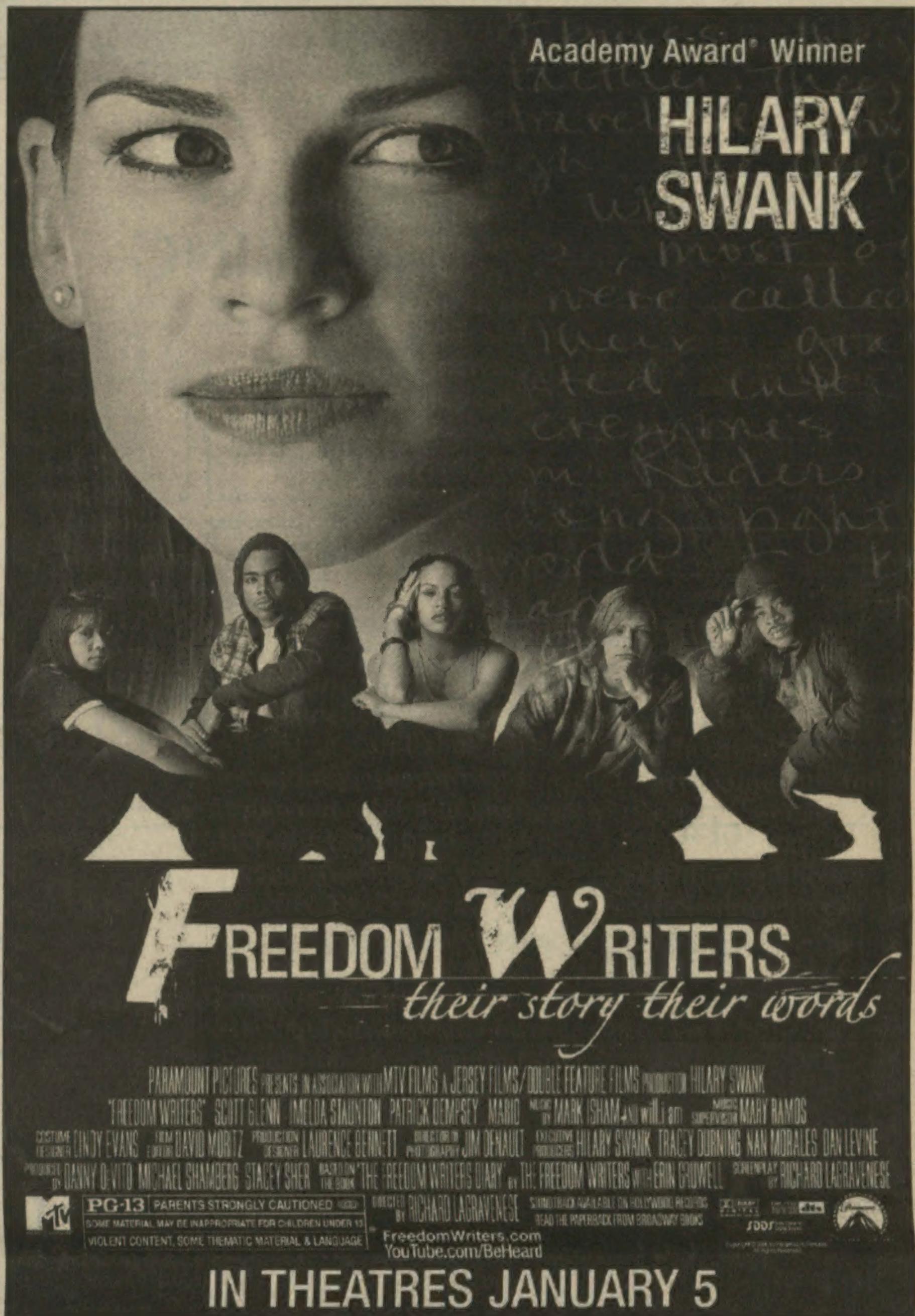
Wade's story touched the hearts of many people across the world through rachelwade.com a Web site established by her parents. The site featured a blog, prayer requests and photos.

"First, you'll never know how much I have thanked the Lord for each of you," her father Steve Wade wrote on the Web site. "Our Mighty God has provided everything Rachel and our family ever needed through it all. Each of you had a part—in prayer, in caring for Rachel, giving, feeding, loving, and so many other ways."

A memorial service was held for Wade on Dec. 26. Other survivors included her mother Rita, sister Brienne, brother John as well as grandmother, aunts and uncles.

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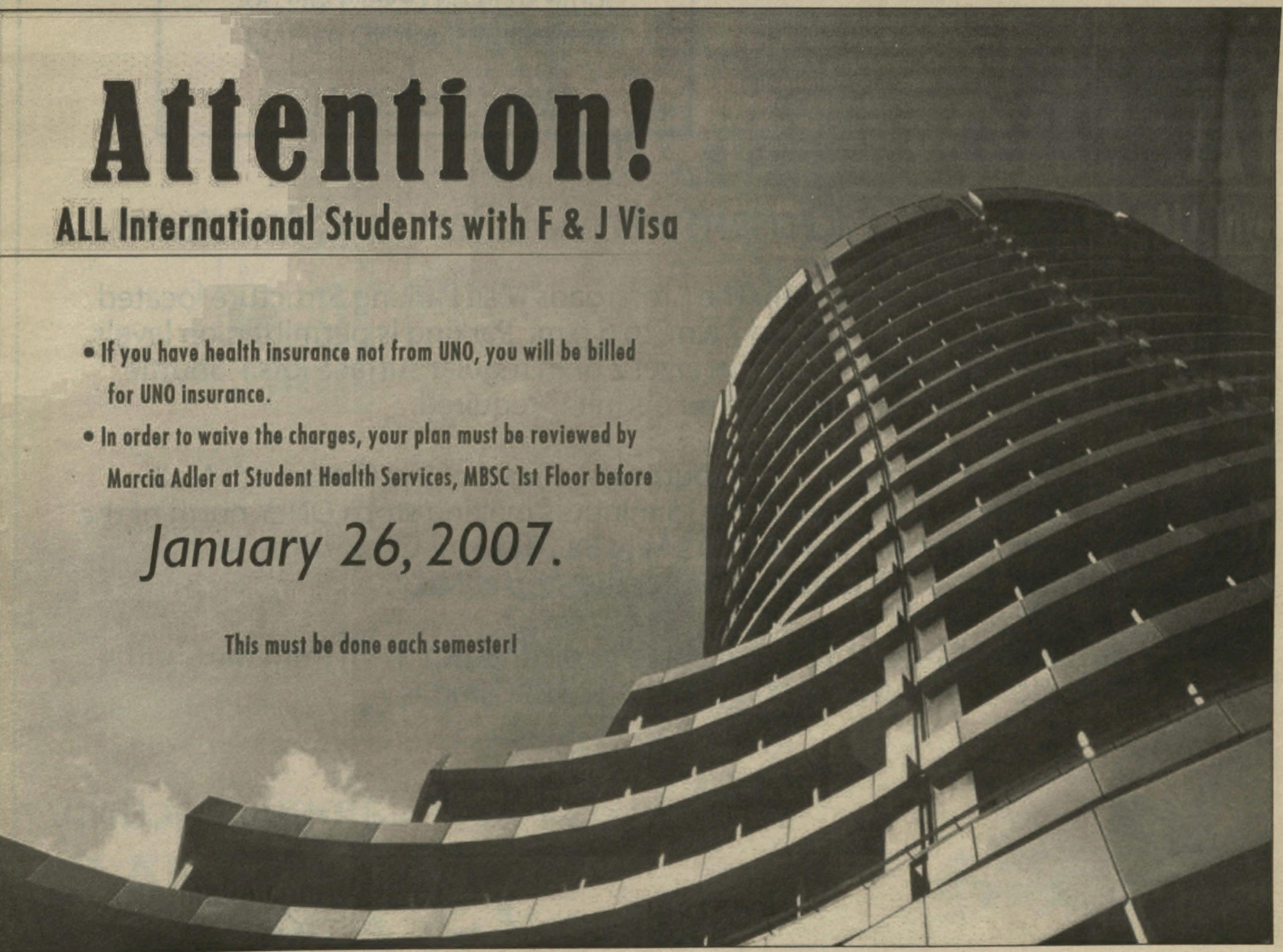
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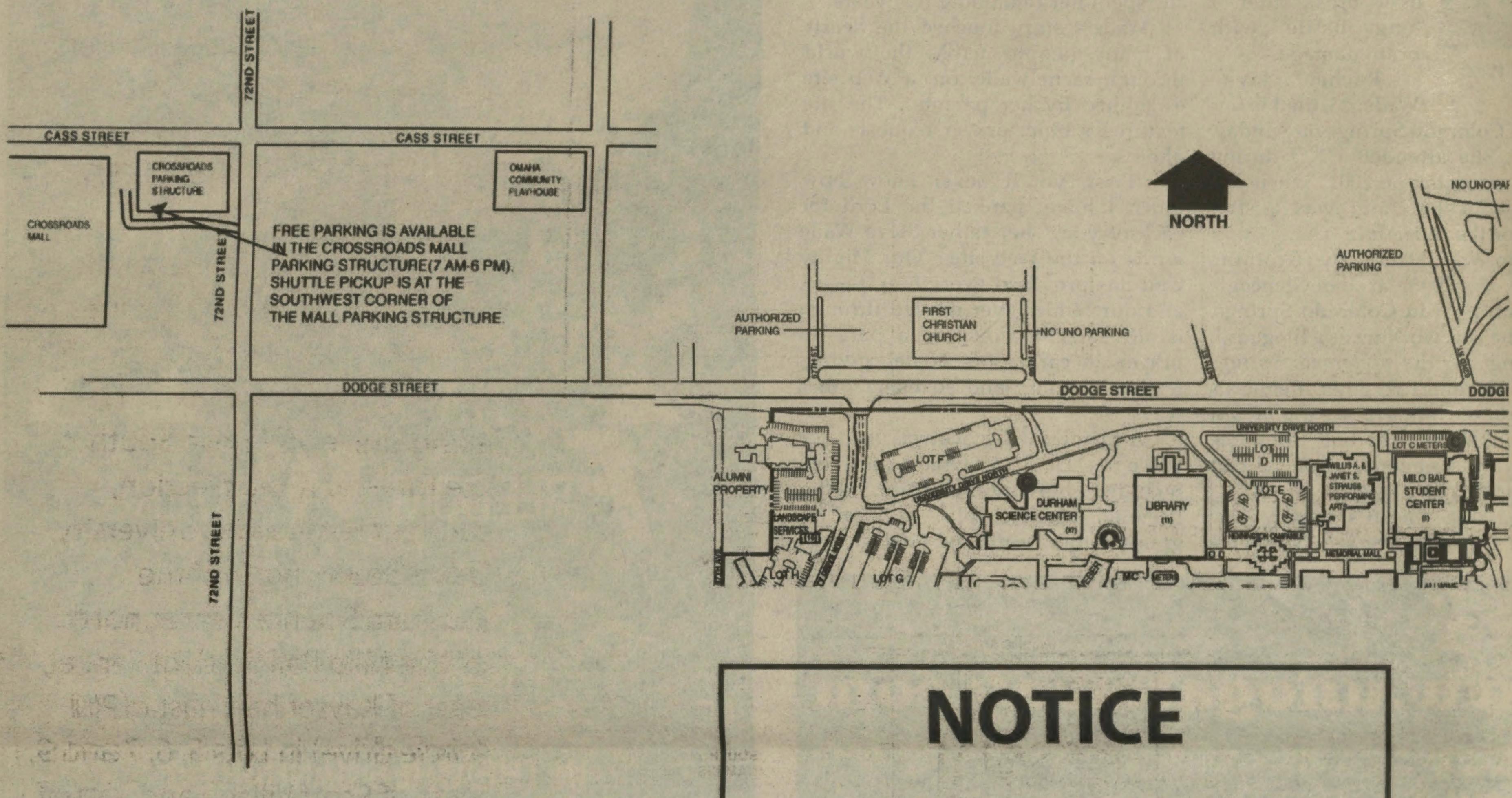
January 26, 2007.

This must be done each semester!



The bull stops here.

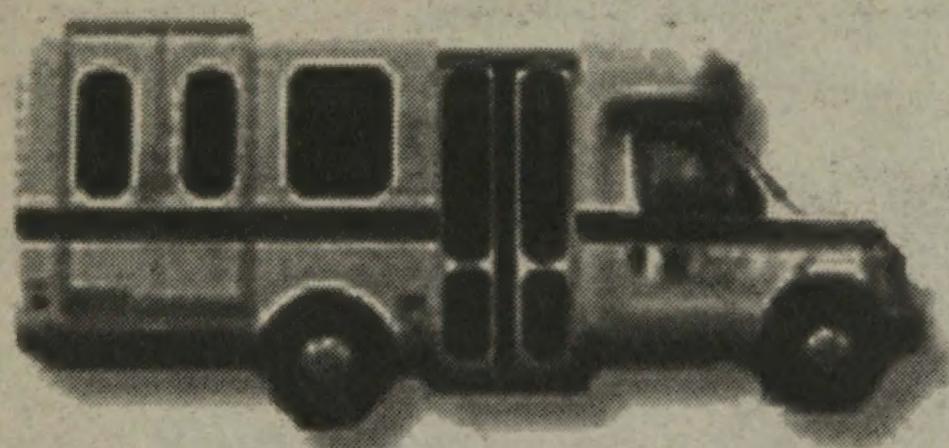
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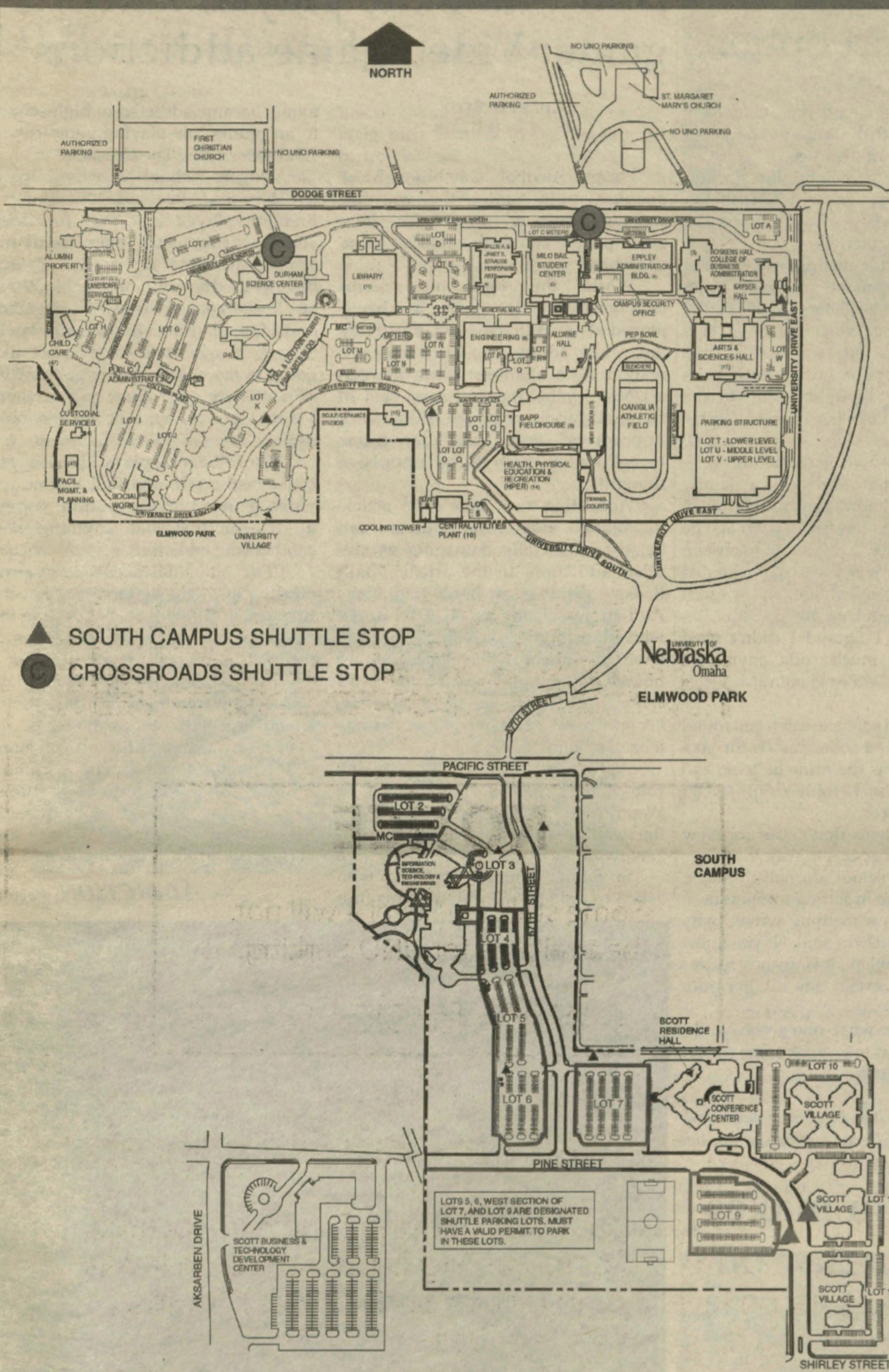
REMOTE PARKING: Crossroads Mall Parking Structure.

UNO provides remote parking from the Crossroads Mall Parking Structure located at 72nd and Cass Streets. Hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking is permitted on levels 1, 3, **part of level 4**, 5, 6 ONLY. (Not on level 2 or in regular surface lots.) Shuttle service is provided free of charge and no permit is required.

Shuttle buses load and unload at the southwest corner of the Crossroads Mall Parking Structure approximately every 15 minutes making stops ONLY north of the Durham Science Center and north of the Milo Bail Student Center. The Shuttle buses return directly to the Crossroads after the stop at MBSC.

The Remote Parking Shuttles will be marked to distinguish them from the Shuttle buses that service the Shuttle parking on the South Campus.

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SHUTTLE PARKING: South Campus Lots 5, 6, 7 and 9

The University of Nebraska at Omaha provides Shuttle Parking on the South Campus between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. **A VALID PERMIT IS REQUIRED.**

Shuttle buses leave the South Campus and the UNO campus approximately every 15 minutes making stops south of lot N, along University Drive South at the three-way intersection, south of Lot K along University Drive South, north of the Durham Science Center, north of the Milo Bail Student Center, east of Kayser hall, east of PKI (circle drive) in Lots 5, 6, 7 and 9, west of Scott Village and east of PKI along 67th Street.

The shuttle bus loads/unloads in Lots 5, 6, 7 and 9 on South Campus.

The shuttle parking buses will be marked to distinguish them from the remote parking buses that service the remote parking area at the Crossroads Mall.

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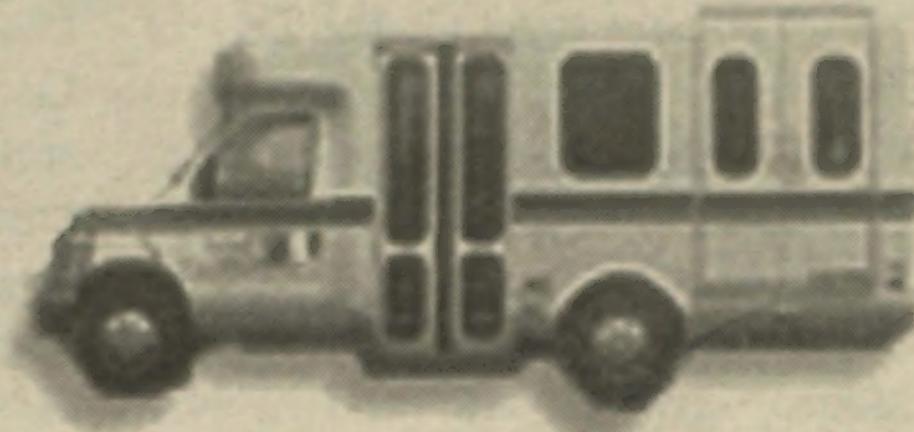
\$40 Student Night Only (Valid on campus after 12:30 p.m.)

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Access to the Parking Structure will be available for a fee of \$1 after 12:30 p.m. No parking permit is required after 12:30 p.m. in the parking Structure.



Keeping New Year's resolutions made simple with support options



photo by Patrick Doty

Battling the holiday bulge is a common New Year's resolution.

DREW HANSON
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of the year - New Year's resolution time. People set goals, change standards and become more pro-active about their lifestyle choices. However, whether our goals involve weight loss, finances or kicking an addiction, many people find it hard to actually stick with them.

Stacy Seier, a senior public relations and advertising major, is determined to kick 10 pounds by spring break. "I'm going to Cancun and I want to look my best in my swim suit," she said. Her drive is obvious; she wants to wow the boys when she is strutting down the golden beach this summer.

"The main things are eating right and keeping with a strict workout routine," Seier said. She is already an avid exerciser; she just intends to step it up a notch to get her body toned.

Motivation to drop some pounds or sculpt abs is literally a hop, skip or jump

away. Joining a gym often provides New Year exercisers with a variety of packages and services to fit their needs.

Purchasing a membership, in and of itself, will serve as a reminder that to get your money's worth you have to be working out regularly.

This goes for dieting, too. Several weight management programs exist to help would-be dieters. Many of the programs come with big price tags to help shrink big waistlines. They encourage positive nutritional habits and a healthy lifestyle. Many of the programs also offer personalized online diet and fitness plans so you can be healthy at your own convenience.

Senior Mike Molacek, a family science major, knows how tough it is to make those changes. A few years ago he made a New Year's resolution to abstain from any sort of pop or cola drink. At the time, he was drinking six to seven cans of Mountain Dew per day.

"Basically, I figured I didn't need to drink that much soda anymore," Molacek said. "Water is so much better for you."

He also did some research and found out just how bad sodas can be for you. Cold turkey was the route he took, and it worked. Now, he only drinks water and natural juices.

Many students don't wait for New Years day to change the way they live. Ben Buchta, a senior journalism major, does not believe in setting resolutions.

"If there is something wrong, why wait to change it?" he said. "If you know you have a problem, it is unconstructive to wait for a certain day to alter your setbacks."

No matter what one resolves, the lesson learned is to exercise some resolve to reach new goals.

Editor in Chief Angi Sada and People editor Jamee Clasen contributed to this report.

SOLP volunteer program makes MLK Jr. Day "on," not a day off

JAMEE CLASEN
PEOPLE EDITOR

UNO Student Organizations and Leadership Programs is turning Martin Luther King Jr. Day into a day "on" this year, instead of a day off.

Beginning this year, they are hosting a "Day of Service" on the federal holiday in honor of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Students, as well as faculty, staff and all members of the community, are being encouraged to volunteer either on their own or with UNO's Day of Service. The UNO volunteers will be working with children at the Wesley House, located at 2001 N. 35th St.

Sharif Liwari, the Cultural Awareness Programs and Organizations advisor, was in charge of putting together the Day of Service at UNO this year. He said UNO has held several events in previous years to honor the life of Dr. King, but this year they wanted to do more.

"A lot of students honor Dr. King and his message," Liwari said, "and he was

very adamant about service and helping others."

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday as a national day of volunteer service. Instead of a day off from work or school, Congress asked that Americans of all ages and backgrounds celebrate Dr. King's legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Day of Service can sign up officially at my.mlkday.gov/public/OrganizationDetail.aspx?TypeList=Project&projectId=294, or unofficiallyatunomaha.facebook.com/event.php?eid=2221163704.

All volunteers who sign up will receive lunch and a Day of Service t-shirt.

"We have this project to implement the ideas [Dr. Martin Luther King] favored," Liwari said. "It's not only open to UNO students, but also faculty, staff as well as families and the community as well. This is something that anyone would be able to help out with, and they are encouraged to do so."

Don't hate the player, hate the game: Video game addictions

CHARLEY REED
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Drugs. Alcohol. Gambling. Most people would notice the warning signs of these addictions. But how many people could spot a video game addiction?

While the idea may seem unbelievable, video games are being played at an addictive level, mostly by the young adults who the games are marketed to. Lauree Tilton-Weaver, a UNO psychology professor, said in an email "adolescents are still a 'work in progress' so they are 'more prone to following through on impulsive thoughts."

According to a June 2006 article by WebMD, video game addiction can be just as socially damaging as any other addiction. In the article, Keith Bakker, director of Smith and Jones Addiction Consultants, said "children who play four to five hours per day have no time for socializing, doing homework or playing sports." And with older, college-aged addicts, "compulsive gaming can jeopardize jobs or relationships."

According to WebMD, online role-playing games like "World of Warcraft" or "Guild Wars," have been the leading cause of cases of video game addiction.

Brendon, a senior at UNO who asked to only be identified by his first

name, became addicted in high school to an online role-playing game called "Darkness Falls: The Crusade."

"During school it was 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.," he said. "Everyday." Brendon played that way for three years, cutting out time from his school work and family, nearly having to drop out of school. When he started college, he switched games and forced himself to cut back. "I missed out on a lot of stuff like going to my sister's soccer games," he said. "There were three years where I didn't go to any; I never miss any now."

Tilton-Weaver plays these types of games herself, and said that online video games provide a social coping mechanism that, like anything else, can become addictive.

"For an adolescent or young adult who might be lonely, the social interaction offered by online gaming could be one of the only sources of feeling that they 'belong,'" she said.

UNO sophomore Chris Reiss plays World of Warcraft, in part because of friendships with other players.

"I wouldn't play this game if it weren't for the people I know online," he said. And while Reiss says he's not addicted himself, he's seen gamers who are. "I log off around midnight and I'll

See ADDICTION: Page 10



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Sports

Jason Glenn | Sports Editor

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sports@gateway.unomaha.edu | January 9, 2007

Maverick wrestlers compete in Midlands, Dana tournaments

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO wrestling team only had two destinations over the holiday break, but they definitely weren't friendly locales.

The Mavericks hit the road for the highly competitive Midlands Championships in Chicago on Dec. 29 and 30 and stayed a little closer to home for the Dana Open in Blair on Saturday.

In the Midlands tournament, one of the country's most elite events and a showcase for future Olympic athletes, the Mavericks finished 19th out of a 56-team field that included four of the top ten Division I squads.

Senior JD Naig was the Mavs' top finisher, putting together a 6-2 record on the way to seventh place at 174 pounds. After a first round bye, Naig narrowly missed upsetting Iowa's Chad

Beatty, coming up short and losing 3-2. Naig then stormed back, winning six of his next seven matches including a 3-1 decision over Iowa State's David Bertalino in the seventh-place final.

In the Dana Open, sophomore Todd Meneely led the Maverick charge, going 4-0 to bring home the 149-pound crown.

In all, UNO had five wrestlers place in the top three of their weight classes. Naig and senior 184-pounder Nate Oviatt each compiled 3-1 records on their way to second-place finishes and sophomores Yasiim Bibrieseca (141 pounds) and Tony Lewis (285 pounds) both wrestled back from early losses to capture third.

The Mavericks will return to the mat this weekend and try to three-peat at the NWCA National Duals in Cedar Falls, Iowa.



photo by Michelle Bishop

Senior JD Naig grapples with an opponent at the NCAA Division II finals.

You heard right....

There will be NO ISSUE

Friday Jan. 12

Relax, Gateway will return Tuesday, Jan. 16



photo by Michelle Bishop

Brandon Scero (center) celebrates with Mick Lawrence after Mark Bernier's goal put the Mavs up 2-0 during the Dec. 10 game against Bentley College.

Hockey team records dubious triple-double with 2-2-2 stretch over break

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

After notching two decisive home wins, the UNO hockey team went on a holiday road trip and came back with a couple lumps of coal in their stockings.

The Mavericks rolled over Bentley College 5-2, Dec. 8 and 7-2, Dec. 10 at the Qwest Center to improve their winning streak to five games. In the second game, Scott Parse notched two third-period goals to become UNO's all-time leading goal scorer.

After a two-and-a-half-week layoff, though, the Mavs headed east and found the going a little bit tougher.

UNO kicked off their mini-Ivy League tour with a Dec. 29 match-up against Princeton. Despite a tight, back-and-forth game, the Tigers managed to pull out a 3-2 win 43 seconds into overtime and put an end to the Mavericks' run of victories.

The Mavs next traveled to New Haven, Conn. to take on Yale and quickly found themselves deep in a four-goal hole. They battled back, though, and found the net four times in the third period to pull out a hard-earned tie that stood after neither team scored in overtime.

In their next game, the Mavs

See HOCKEY: Page 8

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photo courtesy of sxchu

From HOCKEY: Page 7



photo by Michelle Bishop

Mick Lawrence passes the puck while being pressured by Bentley's Pat Percella during UNO's 5-2 victory at the Qwest Center Dec. 8.

found themselves on the other end of the stick as Lake Superior State University made the heroic late charge to tie the game. Carrying a 3-0 lead into the third period, UNO saw the Lakers rattle off three straight goals to even the score. Each team scored once more in regulation, but another blank overtime forced the Mavs to settle for a tie once again.

The Mavericks squared off against

LSSU the following night and, for the fourth game in a row, ended up going into extra innings. Unfortunately for the Mavs, the Lakers were able to score this time and sent UNO home with a 3-2 loss.

The Mavericks will be looking to rebound this weekend with a pair of home games against Bowling Green, who they beat twice in early December.

the morning...

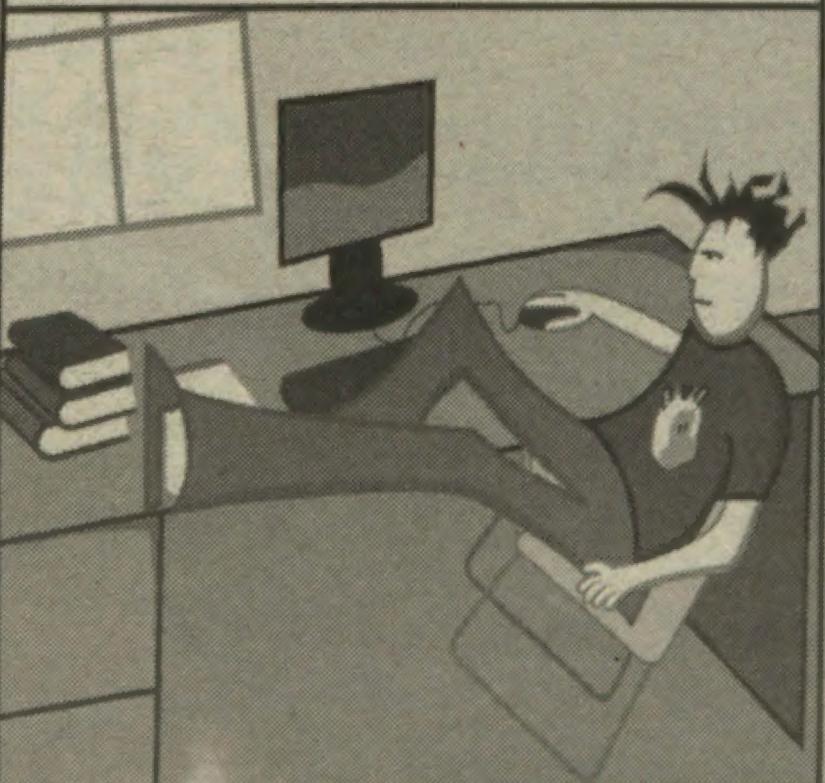
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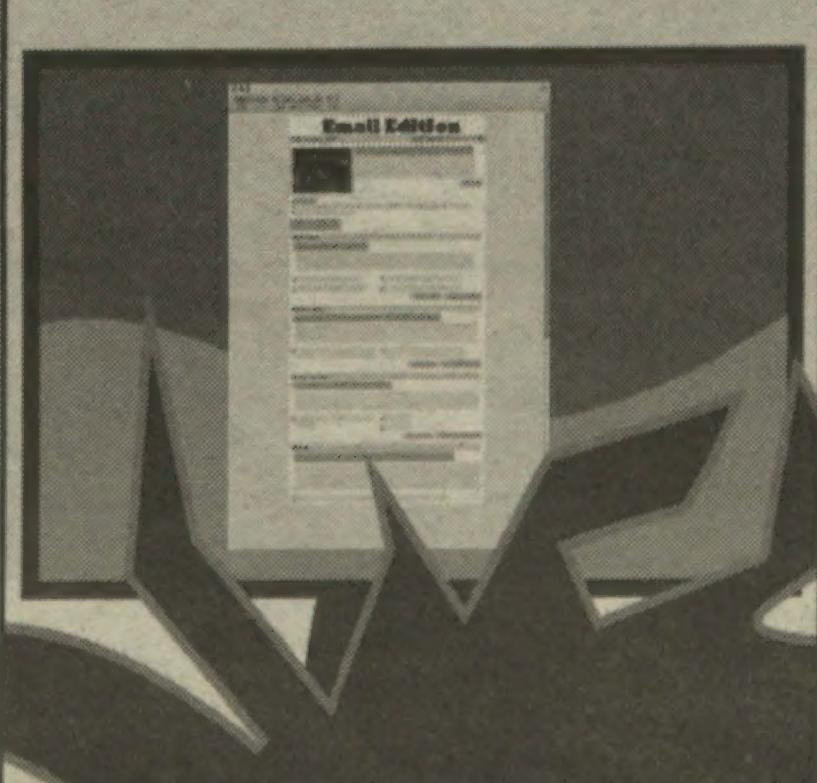
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Men's basketball team nets 3-2 record over university holiday

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

Just like the women's team, the UNO men's basketball squad picked up three big wins to start out their 2006 holiday campaign before dropping their final game of the year and then falling to Augustana in their conference opener.

The Mavs, who have struggled with an injury-depleted lineup, kicked off the break with convincing home wins over Midland Lutheran Dec. 15 and Doane Dec. 18 before getting a 11-day layoff.

UNO returned to Sapp Fieldhouse Dec. 29 with their healthiest roster of the year and blew out Dana College 94-60 to pick up their third straight win. Continuing his stellar senior season, Zac Robinson led the Mavs in scoring for the third straight game with 20 points, including three three-pointers.

UNO's hot streak came to an end on New Year's Eve, though, when Concordia-St. Paul's Kyle Marxhausen drained a last-

second three-pointer to upset the Mavs 79-76.

The Mavericks had built a nine-point lead at the half, but saw the Golden Bears come out of the break with a 15-4 run to take the lead. Michael Jenkins tied the score with a pair of free throws with 3.1 seconds remaining, but Marxhausen's desperation shot ended UNO's hopes.

In their first North Central Conference match-up of the season, the Mavs weren't nearly as close. Poor first-half shooting and a deadly accurate Augustana offense combined to down the Mavericks 83-60 in their 2007 opener.

UNO, which fell to 9-6 on the season, improved their field goal percentage in the second half, but it wasn't enough to overcome a 47-19 deficit at the break and they went to 0-1 in league play.

The Mavs will try to regain their footing Saturday at 4 p.m. against NCC rival Minnesota Duluth at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Michael Jenkins

Women's basketball pushes win streak to seven then drops two

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO women's basketball team started their holiday break on a high note, picking up three victories to run their win streak to seven games, but ushered in the new year with two straight losses.

The Mavericks traveled to Hammond, Ind., Dec. 17 and 18 for a double-header against Calumet College and came away with two big wins, including a 109-40 rout the first night. UNO's point total was the second highest in the history of the program.

The Mavs hit the road again Dec. 29 and 30, making their way to Denver for the Comfort Inn Downtown Classic

hosted by Metro State. They cruised to a 93-54 win over Adams State in the first game before dropping the tournament final 88-68 to the 16th-ranked host Roadrunners.

The Mavericks opened 2007 with their first conference game, a Jan. 4 showdown against league power Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Despite a career-high 23 points from Ashley Freerksen, UNO fell to the Vikings 70-62.

The Mavs were down by 15 at the half, but clawed back to within a point with five minutes to play.

Unfortunately, Augustana, riding a school-record 15-game win streak, found an answer for the surging UNO squad and pulled away at the end.

Tonight at 6 p.m. the 11-3 Mavs will try to halt their slide in the Sapp Fieldhouse against non-conference opponent Southwest Minnesota State.

Maverick football associate coach leaves to lead alma mater on field

MICHELLE BISHOP
PHOTO EDITOR

Head Coach Pat Behrns will have to replace more than his graduating seniors before the 2007 football season begins. Lance Leipold, the UNO associate head coach, was named the new head coach for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater on Jan. 3.

Leipold, a record-setting quarterback for Wisconsin-Whitewater in the mid 1980s and former UW Whitewater assistant coach, was associate head coach and offensive coordinator for UNO since 2004. His first coaching stint at UNO spanned 1994-2000, where he was part of a staff that turned the 1994 Mavs from a 1-10 team to North Central Conference champions in 1996, 1998 and 2000. He moved to UNL in 2001, serving as an administrative assistant the same year the Huskers won the

national championship.

"That opportunity in itself was very attractive for me and my family, and anyone who knows Division III football, and college football as a whole, knows that this is one of the premier jobs in college football, especially at the Division III level," Leipold said in a press release.

Leipold takes over for long time UW Whitewater head coach Bob Berezowitz, who announced his retirement before the 2006 season, ending a 22-year career.

Leipold will guide a UW Whitewater team that won 28 out of 30 games the last two years, finishing as runner-up in 2005 and 2006 at the Division III championships.

"The bar has been raised here the last couple of years," Leipold said.

My goal is to be the third best football program in this state year in and year out. One plays on Sunday in Lambeau, one plays in Camp Randall, and the third plays in Perkins Stadium."

Arts & Leisure

Michael McManus | Arts & Leisure

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a&l@gateway.unomaha.edu | January 9, 2007

Major League Beer Die: A drinking game becomes serious among fans

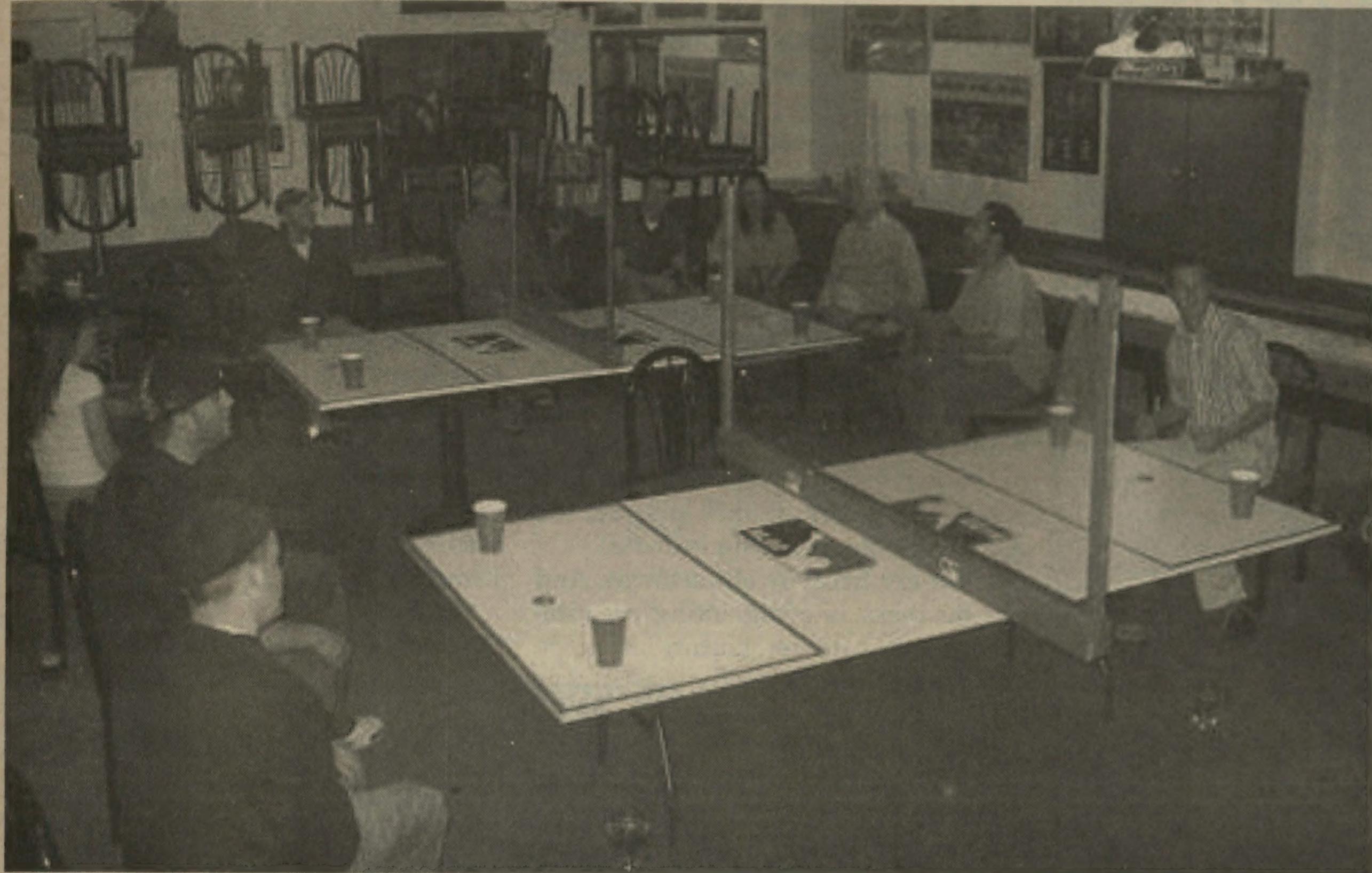


photo courtesy of majorleaguebeerdie.com

Participants gather at Joe Banana's on 10th and Pacific streets to see which team reigns supreme in the throwing of the die.

CHARLEY REED
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

At the end of the game, you've beaten your opponent buzz to bizz, hit a sink and maybe even "Peter Cottontailed." The game is beer die. And luckily the rules aren't nearly as tough to learn as the terminology.

The basic set up for a game of beer die is pretty simple. You need an 8-foot by 4-foot table with a glass divider in the center, four cups, a die and two teams of two.

The object of the game is to throw the die over the glass and "sink" it in your opponent's cup for two points. When this happens, the receiving team drinks their cups and rolls the die. If the throwing team calls out the number that the die lands on, they get another turn. If the die misses, and bounces off the table, the receiving team has to catch the die. If the person trying to catch the die misses, the throwing team gets one point. The game is played until someone reaches seven points within a two-point margin.

While most people have heard of drinking games like "beer pong" or "tippy cup," beer die is still mostly an underground game. However, if Joe Hruska, a Creighton senior and president of Major League Beer Die, has his way, it won't be for long. Hruska created the MLBD in August 2006. It hosts weekly tournaments Mondays at Joe Bananas on 10th and Pacific streets.

"I just thought that was a really good idea;

See **BEER DIE**: Page 10

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From BEER DIE: Page 9

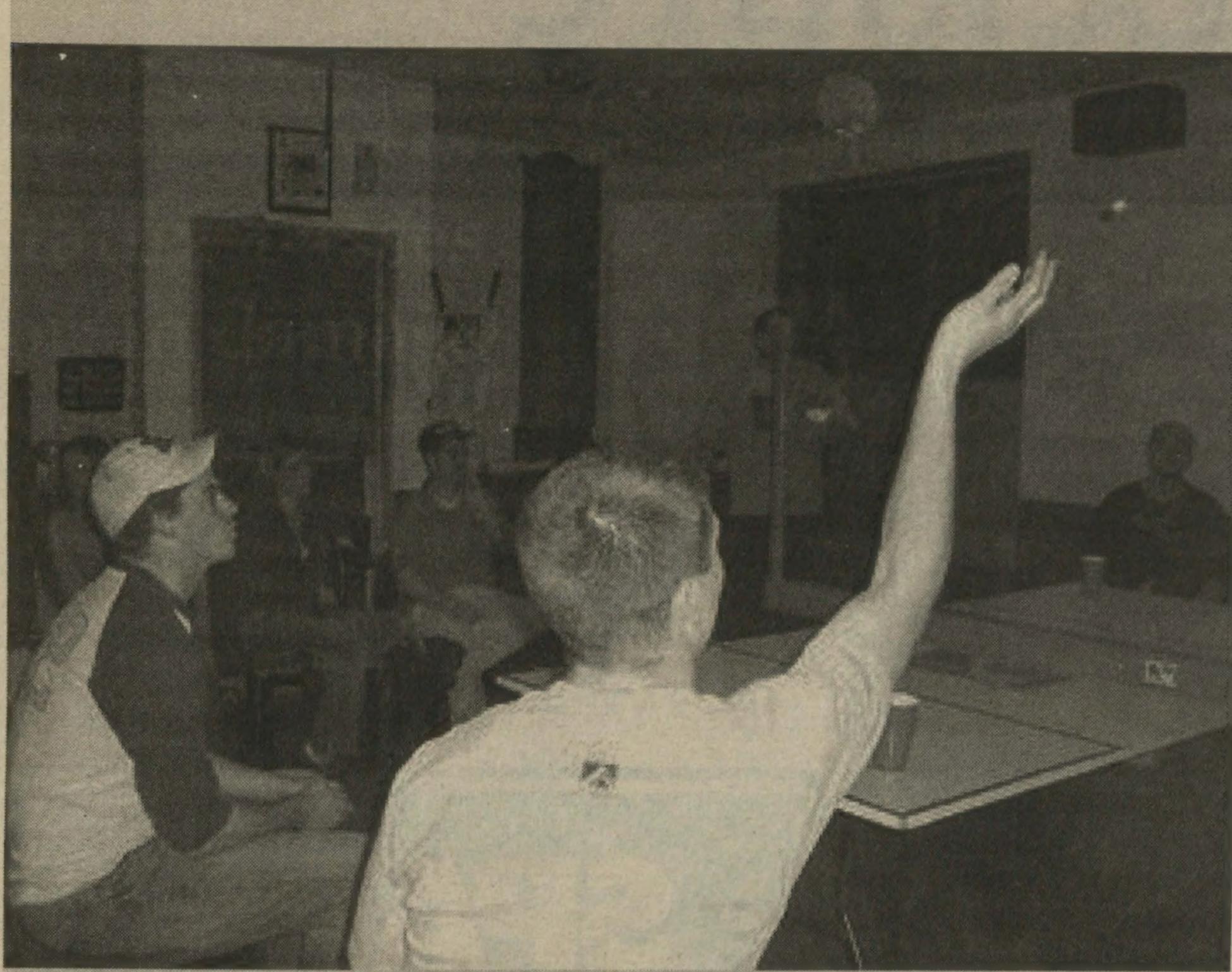


photo courtesy of majorleaguebeerdie.com

Players toss the die over the glass divider and attempt to "sink" the die in their opponent's cup. Though drinking the beer is not required, it still remains a popular activity.

nobody had ever really started a beer die association to find out who's the world's best player," Hruska said. "So that's what I set out to do."

Hruska's push for the big time is a new thing for the game, which has been around for decades as a game only played at parties. Brandon Vail, a UNO senior, started playing beer die after seeing his brother play it. "Once you get the basics down you can have a good time playing it," he said.

Vail isn't part of the MLBD, but he still plays tournaments at friends' houses. He even has his own beer die table.

"In tournaments, people are pretty gung-ho about it," Vail said. "They'll train for it and a lot of money can be involved, as well as pride."

That kind of competition is what originally drew Hruska to the game.

"It's a drinking game, but yet people are able to really get involved in it and really want to beat the other team," he said. "I don't know why that works out with beer die, but it does."

For Vail and Hruska, part of the fun of beer die is simply watching the game. "Some of the crazier things [can include] sinking it multiple times in a row or just crazy, off-the-wall catches," Vail said. And Hruska explained the diving catches players make are "by far one of the most amazing things" he's ever seen.

"We had a guy tear his ACL playing awhile ago," he explained with a laugh. "He made the catch actually."

While it may sound dangerous, Hruska, mindful of the dangers of a competitive drinking game, removed all beer die's forced drinking rules for the MLBD. Ultimately, he said, beer die is a game that's intended to be fun for players and spectators.

"I'd recommend that everybody check it out, beer die fan or not," Hruska said.

More on the MLBD, tournaments and the first-ever "World Series of Beer Die" can be found at majorleaguebeerdie.com.

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WWW: This will all happen in 2007

Editor's note: This installment of the Wild Worthless Web is a farce. A joke, if you will. The Gateway acknowledges this may be confusing for some, including the author. Just go slowly. You'll be fine.

As you might know, I didn't do a "year in review" installment for the Wild Worthless Web. I do not believe in them. As a rule I do not live in the past (I merely travel to it).

I also travel to the future. Now, when I travel into the future (like I did this winter break), I remain nondescript (checked Miss USA out of rehab then de-pantsed Donald Trump on "The View"). I have seen *Back to the Future II* enough times to know not to disturb anything (stole four pandas from China), and I do not give away any sensitive information (buy NASDAQ: OMPI, Phillies in 5 over the A's, Bin Laden is hiding in Syria).

No, my trips are all business. And my business is commenting on viral video and Internet culture. I made many stops on my tour de 2007, and I took notes. These are my notes. I would like to share them with you.

Jan. 29

The Saddam Hussein hanging video is released on Al Jazeera's version of YouTube, which is in beta testing at the time of the release. The video is marred with bad lighting and shaky camera work.

Feb. 10

The first of many videos surfaces featuring a Nintendo Wii controller slipping out of someone's hand, flying into a 42-inch plasma TV during a game of Nintendo Wii Bowling. To the TV owner's credit, they did buy a Best Buy extended warranty; however, it was voided as the entire staff of Best Buy saw the video three days before the owner attempted to return the destructed TV in question. Arguably, the most tragic occurrence in this odd state of events was the timing of the Wii controller-Plasma TV collision: 10th frame, just two strikes shy of a perfect 300 game.

March 15

The Thunderbolts of Southern Utah defeat Arizona and become the first-ever 16-seed to beat a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament. Beware the Ides of March! Of course this will be one of the most watched videos online, until ...

May 7

A new hip-hop artist releases a hit song with a catchy hook that penetrates the social consciousness and lingers for three to seven weeks. The phrase is used in 2,043,348 MySpace headlines, 948,328 Facebook statuses and tattooed on three lower backs. A group of upper-middle-class white teenagers create an ironic music

video for the song, possibly wearing women's clothing and/or neon hats. The video will become a parody of itself and will lead to no less than 10 spin-off videos making fun of it.

June 17

A YouTuber with a username along the lines of "bOoTyLuV89" produces a string of short "booty dance" webcam videos shot in her bedroom. Based upon positive comments like "damnnnnn gurl" and "werk dat," she films six more. On the last video her dad walks into her room and into frame, mid booty-pop. After the initial shock, she turns the music off and covers up with a towel. She says she was trying on new underwear and felt like dancing. For some reason she still publishes the video online, where it is met with comments like "I wish I was your dad in that video" and "nice towel ;)" PM me."

Aug. 7

Collegehumor.com features a video of a student belching the American alphabet in its entirety, forward and backward. If all goes according to plan, this person won't be me.

Nov. 13

In an attempt to create a working business model for their \$1.65 billion investment, Google places 10-second ads in front of every YouTube video clip. The new procedure receives

harsh criticism from the YouTube community, who feel alienated and betrayed by the invasion of capitalism. Some notable YouTubers take juristic action: Thewinekone declares his intention to boycott the United States, Smosh refuse to graduate high school and Renetto threatens to shoot himself with his son's pellet gun. This is the ultimate demise of YouTube, and viral video will never be the same. Obviously the person who will be most affected by this is me as I will no longer be able to write this column again.

Dec. 15

An SNL Digital Short featuring Andy Samberg airs live. Minutes after its initial airing the blogosphere declares it the "funniest thing on SNL this year" and the clip goes online just after the show concludes. It will indeed be funny, but it will only be the third time Samberg has been funny on the show in three years. Coincidentally, the other times have both been Christmas-time digital shorts ("Chronicles of Narnia Rap" and "D*ck in a Box").

*If you don't believe me, fine, just take these as predictions then. Sure, some of them were bold. Some were italic. But they were all 100-percent entirely fact. False. You'll see.

From ADDICTION: Page 6

wake up the next morning to check my in-game mail, and some of those same people ... are still online," he said. "It's like, 'did you ever go to sleep?'"

Just like any other addiction, there is no easy way to kick the habit. According to WebMD, "because video game addicts can't avoid computers, they

have to learn to use them responsibly." Reiss said that moderation and self control are two keys that gamers always need to remember when they decide to get online and play. "You just have to know yourself and know your limits," he said. "You've got to be a responsible person."

Opinion

Angi Sada | Editor-in-Chief

Page 11

editor@gateway.unomaha.edu | January 9, 2007

Students should applaud newspaper pilot, support its permanent adoption

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

If you're reading this, chances are you already have some reason to look at a newspaper. Maybe it's curiosity, the desire to learn or just

donations of the *Omaha World-Herald* (I do!) but, otherwise, what percent of UNO students honestly see a daily paper?

To help solve this problem, our student government is sponsoring a pilot of the Collegiate Readership Program, which will bring free copies of the *Omaha World-Herald*, *USA Today* and the *New York Times* to several locations across campus. All students need to do is pick up the paper or papers of their choice.

It almost goes without saying that this is a wonderful idea.

Among these three papers, one can find a wealth of news, feature content, sports, comics and other newspaper fare.

The *World-Herald* is both the dominant Omaha metropolitan and Nebraska regional daily paper as well as probably the single best source of information about what's going on in your backyard. *USA Today* offers the day's news in an accessible, visually appealing format that attracts millions of Americans to its pages. On the other hand, the *New York Times* is a paper of record and, hate it or love it, offers important coverage of national and international news.

Coupled, of course, with the *Gateway* for campus news, these three papers will certainly help students be better informed citizens. Student government should be both applauded and encouraged to continue the program next year.

So do yourself a favor and pick up copies of these publications while they're available this month. And, if you like what you see, make sure to let your student senators know by filling out their surveys, posting on their Facebook.com profiles, telling them in person, writing letters to the *Gateway* or any other way you can.

After all, perhaps the most important thing about being informed is that it enables you to take action and let your voice be heard.

boredom during the first days of classes. (That instructor can't be serious about her attendance policy the whole semester, can she?)

Whatever your reason, regularly reading newspapers can bring great advantages. It can help you be a better citizen and a more informed person. It can help you connect ideas you've seen in books with what's really going on in the world today. It can help you improve your reading, by teaching you when to skim and when to read carefully.

It can even help you add credibility to your opinions, giving you a chance to support your views with current events. After all, saying you dislike the United Nations is one thing. Detailing its declining influence and its problems, such as the allegations of sexual misconduct and assault by UN peacekeepers in Sudan, is something entirely else.

Yet, if you're like many college students, chances are good you don't read newspapers often enough. Sure, the *Gateway* is great, but we can hardly offer the depth of municipal, regional, national and international news that is vital for any informed Nebraskan.

If you're like me, the problem is access: You gladly would read a copy of the *New York Times*, but you're not going out of your way to pay a dollar per issue every day. If you're a resident of Scott Hall, perhaps you covet its

Kingdom of Collegania: A tuition fairy tale (that might just come true)

Blue Statements



John Owens-Ream

Once upon a time, in a not-so-far-away magical kingdom, there was a corrupt king who ruled his House with an iron fist. The people of Collegania, a city of the kingdom inhabited only by college students, were in desperate need.

"Tuition goes up every year," they cried out, "and we're sinking into debt!"

But one day in the Magical Kingdom, hope arrived.

The people had grown tired of the Corruption, High Tuition and Senseless Wars. They threw out the old corrupt king, and in his place came a beautiful queen.

When the new queen took her crown she proposed a plan for the kingdom, a 100 Hours of Reform Plan.

The 100-Hour Plan covered many subjects, including new Ethics Rules for Knights and Nobles, raising the kingdom's minimum wage and increasing financial aid grants to college students.

But before these changes could take place, they had to be approved by the unpopular emperor. The emperor's name was George Bush.

By this point I hope you've figured out that this story has some real-life truth to it.

You see, the "Old King" was named Denny Hastert, the Republican leader, who used to run the House of Representatives.

His friends have names you may have seen in headlines too: Tom DeLay, Duke Cunningham, Bob Ney and Mark Foley. All four were Republican Congressmen who lost their jobs last year, and all four

are now under investigation or already behind bars.

The "New Queen" is named Nancy Pelosi, the leader of the Democrats in Congress.

No woman has ever been the Speaker of the House before, which makes Nancy Pelosi the most powerful woman in the history of the United States. And she owes her job to our generation.

You see, 18-to-30-year-olds voted for Democrats by large margins last November. In Nebraska, we voted 70 percent for the top Democrat in the race and 30 percent for the top Republican. (Nebraska may be conservative, but college students are still liberal.)

So when the Democratic Congress was sworn in on Jan. 3, they began by fulfilling their promise to help out college students as part of their 100-Hour Plan.

Which brings us back to the magical kingdom, Queen Pelosi and our story....

In Collegania, the students are rejoicing to find out that new Queen Pelosi's 100-Hour Plan is going to help them fight College Debt.

Lots of students in Collegania are on financial aid called Pell Grants. So Queen Pelosi doubled the amount of Pell Grants a student could receive.

Here at UNO, that means literally thousands of students could pay \$2,000 less in tuition next year.

And because 90 percent of students in Collegania take out some type of loan to pay their tuition, Queen Pelosi and the Democrats voted to cut the interest rates that students pay on their loans in half.

That means that almost every UNO student will save thousands of dollars over the next 10 years in interest they will never have to pay.

And just think, some college students don't even believe elections matter.

But will the students of Collegania live happily ever after?

Or will Emperor Bush be able to stop Queen Pelosi with his Veto of Death?

Make sure you read my column next week. This story is just getting good.



the gateway

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Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

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From COMMENCEMENT:
Page 1

"I was totally surprised when I received the call that I was elected," Garcia said. "Never in a million years did I expect anything like this. I was very honored and humbled."

Garcia, who founded El Museo Latino in 1993, directs the many community projects and events put on by the museum. She works closely with many UNO departments and professors to spread the word about the museum and Latino heritage. Only 10 other Latino museums exist in the United States, and El Museo Latino is the only one between Denver and Chicago.

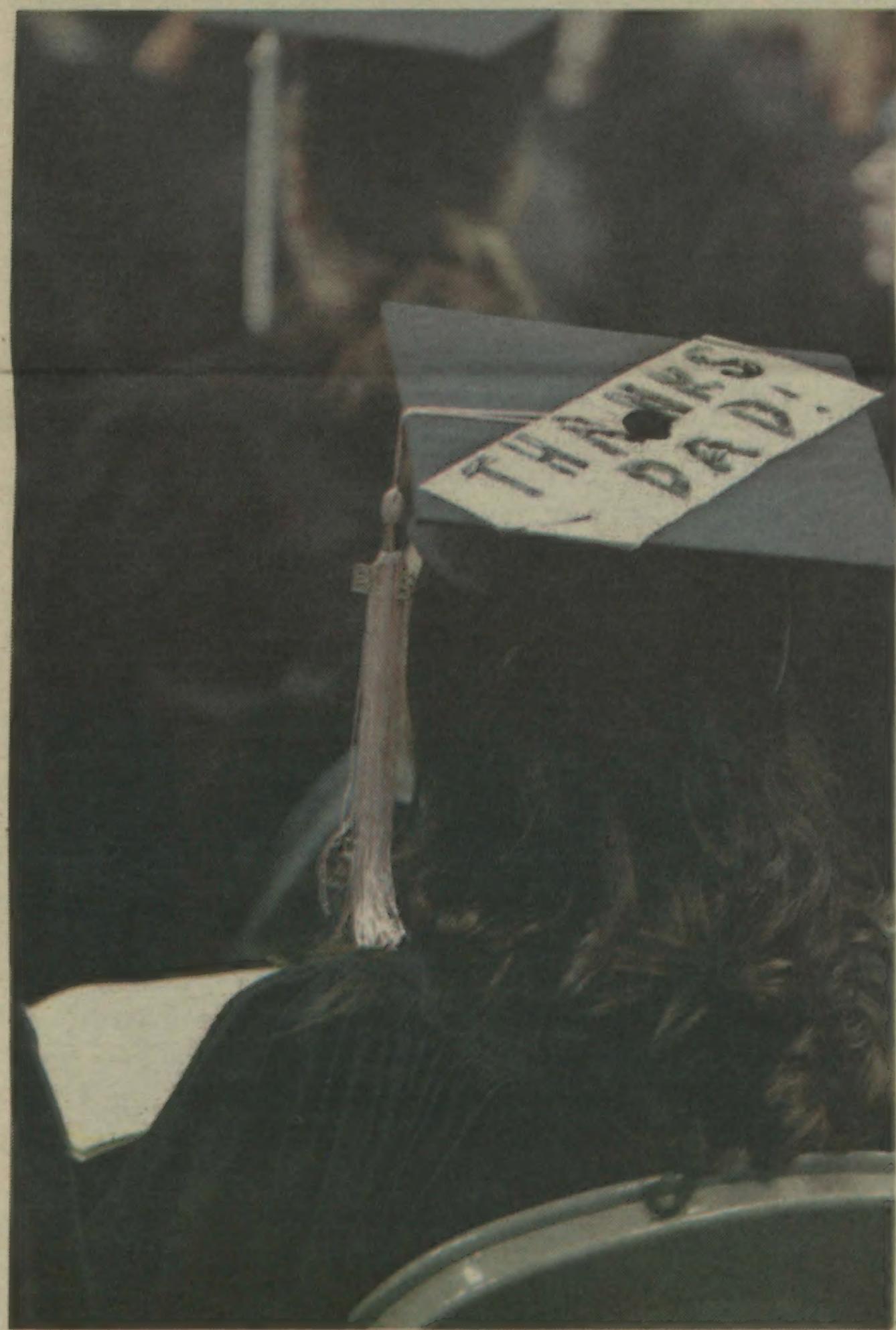
Commencement marks a time of change in most graduates' lives, whether it be starting a career, marriage or further education.

"I'm starting full time at my job," McCann said. "But I'm also focusing on planning for the wedding, and working on applying for law school as well, all while trying to save some money."



photo by Patrick Doty

Smiles could be seen all over the Civic Auditorium during winter commencement on Dec. 15. Above, students smile and wave to family and friends while waiting to receive their diplomas.



Some graduates decorated their mortarboards to show appreciation to people that have helped them throughout their college career.

At left, a graduate lets the entire audience know her appreciation for her father's support. Other graduates' caps were decorated with more general comments like "Thanks Y'all" and "At last."

Whatever message the graduates wanted to get across, most felt relieved to receive a degree.

"After walking I was relieved it was all over," said graduate



Family members and loved ones of the graduates filled the Civic Auditorium to offer support and encouragement.

photo by Patrick Doty

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